



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

M/045/017

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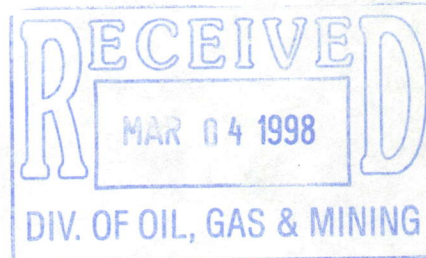
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Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

March 3, 1998

Glenn M. Eurick, Director
Environmental Relations US
Barrick Resources (USA) Inc.
P.O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074-0838



Dear Mr. Eurick:

Re: Jan. 19, 1998 Barrick Letter on Golden Gate Basin

This is in response to the above referenced letter requesting our reconsideration on one of the conditions we prescribed for use of the Golden Gate Basin to be eligible for "Permit by Rule." This condition required that water disposed of in the basin not exceed the numeric concentrations of the Ground Water Quality Standards specified in Table 1 of UAC R317-6. You felt it would be more appropriate to use the levels specified in your UPDES permit. As per your request we have gone back and reviewed the conditions of our Dec. 12, 1997 letter in this context and conclude our original criteria could be revised subject to the following:

1. The numeric criteria in the UPDES permit are outfalls for point source discharges of wastewater to surface water which has come in contact with disturbed area of the mining operation. In addition, some of the criteria were derived by "Best Professional Judgement" as the basis for effluent limitations which have no correlation for use as a groundwater protection standards. They were simply concentrations that were determined to be capable of being achieved based on historical data and should not be used for decision making for compliance with ground water protection rules.
2. While R317-6-6.B requires no facility may cause ground water to exceed the referenced standards (numeric criteria applied in the aquifer) unless the ambient quality already exceeds those levels, it does not preclude a discharge from the facility at a higher concentration and still be eligible for permit by rule provided it was stormwater in the classic sense. However, to make this determination for wastewater other than stormwater would require a de minimus impact to ground water be demonstrated.

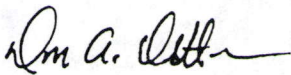
Glenn M. Eurick, Director
March 3, 1998
Page 2

Although, because of the above, we are not able to conclude the facility is permitted by rule as you requested, we suggest an alternative for your consideration. We suggest that water quality data be collected for the duration of your UPDES permit. Where the pit is currently considered an existing facility, you could continue to operate as you have in the past. Following closure and completion of revegetation, a reevaluation of the eligibility for permit by rule status would be conducted. At that time we would either conclude there exists sufficient basis of no potential impact or there would be ample basis for development of potential alternatives.

We hope the suggestion is agreeable to you. Please contact Larry Mize or Dennis Frederick if you desire further discussion of the issue.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

DAO:ljm/fb

cc: Tooele Co. H.D.
Global Environmental Technologies, Inc.
Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining